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FEATURES

Command News.....	3
1-161 Deploys to Horn of Africa	4
137th CAB redeploys	6
35th ID prepares for Full Spectrum Operations Exercise	8
Command post of the future	10
Yama Sukura	10
Mortgage extension from Bank of America	11
Dignitaries talk policy at KSNG conference	12
NGAKS Awards	16
Family Programs Awards banquet	21
Youth learn to be creative	22
Family Programs Awards breakfast	23
Families, volunteers recognized	25
Museum Brick Project	26
M.A.S.H.	27
KS 150th Armed Forces Celebration	29
Bass Tournament	31
Through the lens	32
Military children's day off	34
End of an era	36
Golf Tournament	38
Winners in journalism.....	40

On the Cover

Spc. Jessie Roper takes the opportunity to hold his daughter tightly after the departure ceremony for the 161st Field Artillery, who will be deploying to the Horn of Africa for a year.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke, 105th MPAD

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From the Commander: Challenges Ahead

I have been thinking a lot lately about our ongoing funding challenges with the Continuing Resolution Authority (CRA) and its impacts on our training and operations.

While the CRA is making it challenging right now, it is indicating the challenges we will continue to face as we are required to accept smaller budgets over the next few years.

This presents us with an opportunity to start focusing our efforts on our critical training, operations, administration and maintenance tasks. This will require all leaders, who I will define as each one of you responsible for more than yourself or your own personal equipment, to determine what tasks you are responsible for in each area are either critical or important for deployment or response missions. Tasks that do not reach these levels will either not be accomplished or they will be accomplished when we have the time, people, equipment or funding resources available.

As I come around and visit with you be prepared to answer my questions on what you consider critical tasks at your level, why you consider these critical for your mission, and how within your limited resources you plan to accomplish those tasks.

We will be particularly interested in looking at changes in procedures, policies and technology that will allow us to more effectively accomplish training, operations, administration and maintenance tasks.





*Brig. Gen. Eric Peck, Commander,
Joint Forces Land Component*

Another area we need to look at as an organization is how we organize to train. In the past, we have looked at collecting everyone together to accomplish training. With most of you having deployed on missions where we have not been collocated with our entire unit or at least not conducting consolidated operations, we want you to consider how we can start to conduct training that empowers our NCO leaders and company grade officers to train in the same manner that we operate on missions.

This is another area where we must look not at how we have accomplished this training in the past, where we had significant resources, but how we will accomplish this training in the future with constrained resources. I am looking forward to discussing this topic with leaders at all levels. I am hoping to see many of you at our professional development sessions in Lawrence in late March, and as I get out visiting the units over the next few months.

The Non Commissioned Officer



You are Coordinately Invited to the
Kansas Army National Guard
Noncommissioned Officer
Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

When - April 10th, 2011 @ 1100hrs
Where - Bldg 365 Kansas RTI, Salina, KS 667401
Uniform - Class A's for Participants
Attendees - Military (Duty Uniform), Retirees/Civilians (Business Casual)

The BACKBONE of the ARMY

1-161 Deploys to Horn of Africa

Story by Sgt. Jessica Rohr, 105th MPAD

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke, 105th MPAD

Kansas Guardsmen of the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery and attached 35th Military Police were honored at a departure ceremony by family, friends and co-workers at the Salina Bicentennial Center, March 2, prior to departing for a year-long deployment to the Horn of Africa.

The 161st FA will be relieving Soldiers of the Kansas National Guard's 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry.

Prior to arriving in country, 161st FA will make a short stop at Camp Atterbury, Ind., for additional mission-specific training.

As the Soldiers marched into formation on the drill floor, the American Legion Riders thanked each of them for their great service and sacrifice for their country.

Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, Kansas adjutant general, and Lt. Gov. of Kansas, Dr. Jeffery Colyer, paid tribute to the deploying Soldiers, family members and community with special advice and words of gratitude for the year ahead.

"These Soldiers standing in front of you today will play a key role in shaping the future of the continent, but more importantly, the future of the United States," said Tafanelli. "To our families, I can't say thank you enough for the sacrifice and support that you give our Soldiers each and every day by allowing them to wear the uniform and serve in the Kansas National Guard."

"Several years ago we were a strategic force, only used in those rarest of occasions. But today confirms that for the last eight years the National Guard, the 161, has been at the forefront of an operational force and they will continue to do so in the future. And for that we say 'Thank you'."

Colyer personally identified with the Soldiers and their family as he, too, has made the same sacrifice for his country as a volunteer with the International Medical Corps.

"There are many challenges that these [Soldiers] face. They face them with dignity, courage and pro-



Lt. Col. Thomas Burke, battalion commander of the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, accepts a state flag from Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli as Lt. Gov. Dr. Jeffery Colyer looks on. The flag will accompany the battalion to the Horn of Africa.

fessionalism," said Colyer. "There are 5,500 Soldiers and 2,200 Airmen in the Kansas Guard. About 550 will be leaving us today. And they serve across the world in various theaters - in Afghanistan. They have served in Iraq and they have served in the Horn of Africa and many, many other theaters. I have worked

in many of those theaters and I know there is hardship."

"Each of these men and women are going to face that hardship, but when they return that hardship will be a little bit less in the place that they left behind. Certainly it will be more peaceful there than what they left behind, and most importantly, Kansas and America will be

more secure because of the sacrifices these men and

"...it is sad to leave everyone behind. I know I will get a good experience out of it and meet new people ... I hope I learn a lot out of it and become a stronger person."

Spc. Ginger Jenkins

See "Deployed" continued page 5



Above photo: American Legion Riders Jim Lahmen and David Rhodden stand at the entrance to the formation area and thank each member before entering the formation



Top photo: Spc. Jesus Leyua holds son Austin after the departure ceremony, trying to squeeze out as much time with him as possible before departing for Camp Atterbury, Ind.
Above photo: Spc Jessie Roper kisses his wife Schara goodbye.

From “Deployed” page 4

women are making.”

Lt. Col. Thomas Burke, battalion commander of the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, addressed his troops after the distinguished guests. Following his speech, Tafanelli and Colyer presented an official Kansas flag to Burke, which was flown over the capital building Oct. 5, 2010, to proudly be able to represent during their deployment overseas.

For Burke the departure ceremony marked another mile stone for the deployment, on top of saying goodbye to family and friends.

“We are excited to have completed another phase of training. This was our second phase,” said Burke. “We have one more phase at Camp Atterbury, Ind. We are really happy about what we have accomplished up to this point, so far. We have a lot more hard work ahead of us that we and the Soldiers of this battalion are going to have to do. But we are ready to meet the challenge and move on to Africa and help relieve the other unit that is there right now.”

After bringing the ceremony to a close with the singing of the Army song, tearful goodbyes were exchanged.

“It’s sad and bitter sweet to say goodbye to my family and friends,” said Spc. Ginger Jenkins, of Battery C, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, and a Manhattan, Kan, resident. “I am really excited to go on this deployment for new experiences, but it is sad to leave everyone behind. I know I will get a good experience out of it and meet new people ... I hope I learn a lot out of it and become a stronger person.”

Welcome Home!

The 137th Combined Arms Battalion redeploys

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke, 105th MPAD



Above: Soldiers from the 137th Combined Arms Battalion are welcomed home by Kansas Army National Guard state leadership, Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Taffanelli, Adjutant General; Col. Alan Soldan, Joint Forces—Land Component Chief-of-Staff, Command Chief Warrant Officer, CWO4 Hector Vasquez; 2-137th Infantry Administration Office, Capt. Rodney Seaba, Command Sergeant Major - Land Component, Command Sgt. Maj. John Ryan and Command Sergeant Major—169th Troop Command, Command Sgt. Maj. Harold Whitley.

Below: Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Taffanelli talks with Staff Sgt. Darrell Anthony while soldiers await transportation.



Welcomed by blowing snow and frigid gale-force winds, more than 130 members of the 137th combined Arms Battalion arrived at Volk Field, Wis., March 23, as they returned home from a year-long deployment to the Horn of Africa recently.

The soldiers arrived in the early morning hours at Volk Field, Wis., and were greeted by the Adjutant General of Kansas, Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Taffanelli, Kansas Army National Guard chief-of-staff, Col. Alan Soldan, and Joint Forces Land Component Command Sergeants Major, John Ryan.

For many of the returning soldiers, their return was a chance to attend schools or take

See “Redeployed” continued page 7

From “Redeployed” page 6

care of issues prior to the main body of the unit coming home in several weeks, after the 161 Field Artillery relieves them in place. And, even though they are “home” meaning back in the United States, they still have to return to the unit when the main body returns. They will have to finish the demobilization process once the full compliment has returned.

“I am excited to be back,” said Spc. Chris McKee, who returned to attend the Warrior Leader Course. “I am really excited to go to school and get that done and really, really excited to see my wife. The main thing is to get all of this (deployment and schools) done and get back to my wife and start our lives together again.”

While in Africa, the 137th Combined Arms Battalion participated in promoting U.S. strategic objectives by working with African states and regional organizations to help strengthen regional stability and security.



Above: Soldiers of the 137th Combined Arms Battalion stream down the mobile aircraft stair and onto American soil after being in Africa for nearly one year. Returning soldiers arrived early to take advantage of the opportunity to complete schools. While in Africa, members of the 137th worked with African states and regional organizations to promote stability in the region.

Left: Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafarielli greets members of the 137th Combined Arms Battalion on their return to American soil. Also greeting soldiers is Kansas Army National Guard Chief of Staff, Col. Alan Soldan and Command Chief Warrant Officer, Warrant Officer 4 Hector Vasquez.

35th infantry Division Prepares for Full Spectrum Operations Exercise

By Lt. Col. Rick Peat, 35th Infantry Division

For nearly ten years, the Army has been fighting the War on Terrorism. The operational tempo of fighting two campaigns simultaneously has been high the entire time - requiring the Army to focus its limited training time and resources on low-intensity conflict and stability operations. Yet, conventional threats from countries with established militaries continue to exist in the world today.

Some of the knowledge and skills required for this type of fight has been atrophied to some extent. Secretary of Defense Dr. Robert M. Gates said, "One of the Army's concerns... is getting back to training for high intensity situations—a capability vitally important to deter aggression and shape behavior of other nations... one of the principle challenges the Army faces is to regain the traditional edge of fighting conventional wars."

The Army's realization that we must reinvigorate training for conventional wars, while sustaining competence in low-intensity conflict and stability operations is the impetus for a new type of exercise developed by the Battle Command Training Program (BCTP) at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. This new Full-Spectrum Exercise (FSX) is the upgrade to and replacement for the Warfighter exercise that many Soldiers are familiar with.

Regarding the new exercise, Col. Michael McGuire, Chief of BCTP's Operations Group said, "The goal of all those involved ... is to harness the lessons learned of 10 years of persistent conflict, combined with key aspects from our Warfighter Exercises of the past, to make the FSX truly a value added training event. We believe the FSX focus falls in line with the recently published Army Training Strategy - training will be realistic, tough, demanding, and fast-paced against a hybrid threats."

The 35th Division will be the first Army division to be exercised under the new FSX methodology. "The FSX rotation is a great opportunity for all of us in the division, and the brigades participating with us, to learn and practice our craft," said Maj. Gen. John Davoren, 35th Division Commanding General. "The



Lt. Col. Thomas Barnett points out the Full Spectrum doctrine during his classes he gave in the emerging doctrine at the seminar.

emphasis of the exercise is for units to understand the current and emerging doctrine and to practice war-fighting skills that have atrophied in recent years."

A Mission Command Seminar was held February 14 – 18 at the 35th Division Headquarters at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., to learn the latest doctrine for mission command, establish relationships with the other units involved in the FSX, and to analyze the mission assigned to the 35th Division within the upcoming exercise. "The seminar is the first step in a training experience that will require study and hard work," said Davoren when addressing his staff. "Make the most of this week and develop your plan for follow-on training in preparation for the exercise in September."

Mission Command is a new concept in the updated Army Field Manual 3-0 Operations. The earlier concepts of 'Battle Command' and 'Command and Control' did not adequately address the increasing need for the commander to frequently frame and reframe the mission in an environment with ill-structured problems, and to gain the context of operations by continuously challenging assumptions both before and during execution, according to Gen. Martin Dempsey, Commanding General of the Army's Training and Doctrine Command.

Mission Command employs the art of command and the science of control to enable commanders, supported by staffs, to integrate all war fighting functions and enable agile and adaptive commanders, leaders and organizations.

See SPECTRUM, Page 9

From SPECTRUM, Page 8

The following units participated in the Mission Command Seminar and will participate in the FSX with the 35th Division in September: 110th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (Mo.), 142d Fires Brigade (Ark.), 33d Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Ill.), 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team (Pa.), 287th Sustainment Brigade (Kan.), 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team (Tenn.), 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade (Alaska), and the 238th Air Support Operations Squadron (Miss.). In addition, the 38th Infantry Division (Ind.) will participate as the higher headquarters, replicating a corps level headquarters.

Valor for Service

2-137 Combined Arms Battalion

Regimental Dining Out

Capitol Plaza Hotel

1717 SW Topeka Blvd, Topeka, KS 66612

June 25th 2011 | 7pm - 1am

One Night. Regimental Excellence

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Social Hour at 1800, Dining Out commences at 1900

Uniforms: Mess Dress, Dress Blues, Class A with White Shirt and Bow Tie.

www.2-137.us

Register Online or By Mail



name

RSVP NLT 27 MAY with:

- 1) Cash/check payable to "2-137 Dining Out Fund"
- 2) Meal is Buffet Beef and Chicken
- 3) Your Grade ____ Guest: Yes or No
- 4) Baby Sitting needs? \$10 p/child or \$20 p/family
____ No ____ Yes ____ How Many?

Mail cut-out to: HHC, 2-137 IN BN
Attn: SFC Collins, Dining-Out
100 South 20th ST.
Kansas City, KS 66102

rank

\$77/room @ the Capitol Plaza Hotel (785) 431-7200
Reservations required NLT 3 JUN 2011 under
(2-137TH Regimental Dining Out)

Dinner Fees:

E4 and below	\$20.00	Guest \$20.00
E5	\$25.00	Guest \$25.00
E6-O1/O2	\$30.00	Guest \$30.00
E7/E8/O3	\$35.00	Guest \$35.00
E9/O4	\$40.00	Guest \$40.00
O5 and above	\$45.00	Guest \$45.00

unit

MAIL THIS PORTION WITH CHECK OR MONEY ORDER

Questions: Please call SFC Steven Collins at (913) 279-7847

35th Infantry Division adopts Command Post of the Future

*Photo and story by Spc. Charles M. Nolen,
35th Infantry Division Public Affairs*

On March 6, 2011, the 35th Infantry Division took another stride forward, becoming one of the few divisions to use the Command Post of the Future (CPOF) for the Military Decision Making Process (MDMP).

The 35th ID is the first division-size element in the active or reserve component to go through a Full-Spectrum Exercise (FSX). The mission analysis for the FSX took place in February. March 6th marked the culmination of the MDMP phase whereby the di-

vision analyzed alternative courses of action for the mission, and one was selected by the Commander, Maj. Gen. John Davoren. Mission planning now begins in earnest, and the exercise itself will take place during the unit's annual training in September.

The benefit of using CPOF during the early stages of the decision making process is that it allows the staff to adapt to the system and become more proficient by the time the actual full spectrum exercise (FSX) occurs. "From my observations, the leadership of the 35th ID was more willing than others to accept the growing pains associated with using CPOF for MDMP," said Maj. Darrin Daugherty, Simulation Operations Officer.

The primary advantage of using CPOF over the existing Power Point method is the real time common operating picture graphics. When updates to staff running estimates are made, all staff sections have immediate access to the information. This allows decision makers to quickly analyze data gathered and incorporate it into the planning process.

The intended result is the staff becoming more familiar or comfortable with CPOF and not regressing towards the older, more common and antiquated practice of using Power Point. "The decision to use CPOF now will certainly pay huge dividends when it comes time for the FSX in September," said Col. John Andrew, Division Chief of Staff.

Maj. Gen. John Davoren leads the discussion on analyzing alternative courses of action for future missions.



Yama Sukura Exercise

Story and cutline by Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke

Lt. Col. Tom Barnett 35th Infantry Division Chief of Operations, briefs his Japanese Western Army, 4th Division counterparts Col. Yoshitomo Hashizme and his interpreter Sgt. 1st Class Ryo Furusada during Yama Sakura 59 exercises recently. Yama Sakura, a bilateral command post exercise, was conducted at Camp Kengun, Kyushu, Japan, Jan. 21- Feb. 3, and focuses on strengthening the working relationships between the Japan Ground Self Defense Force and the U.S. Army.

First conducted in 1982, the command post exercise underscores the United States commitment to Japan's defense, in accordance with the mutual defense treaty that was implemented in 1951 and revised in 1960.

In the exercise, a simulated invasion has landed and is vying for control of Kyushu Island. The Japan Ground Self Defense Force (JGSDF) Western Army must defend its area of operations with coordinated help from the U.S. Army Pacific Command. The 35th Infantry Division's role in the scenario was to act as the command and control for the war-fighting units on the ground that would push the enemy off the island.

Through multiple days of the exercise, new scenarios would be interjected which would require recalculation of strategies and operations and focused on U.S. Forces aiding in the training of the JGSDF counterparts.

Lt. Col. Tom Barnett during a briefing to Japanese participants.



Bank of America Introduces Program to Extend Mortgage Protections for Service members Beyond Active Duty

Story Provided

Bank of America recently announced programs for its mortgage customers serving in the United States military, improving key benefits for those on active duty and extending mortgage protections for service members beyond active duty. The newly introduced programs include a principal forgiveness loan modification program for military borrowers behind on their payments when leaving active duty; a reduced 4 percent interest rate on mortgages for customers who are eligible for Service members Civil Relief Act (SCRA) protection; and a mortgage customer service unit dedicated to servicing military customers.

"Our new Military Loan Modification Program builds on our long-standing commitment to the United States military forces and will help address the heavy burden of financial matters at home that can weigh on those who are protecting our freedoms," said Terry Laughlin, executive vice president for Bank of America. "Military men and women face extraordinary circumstances, and they make unique sacrifices for all of us. For these reasons, we want this combination of tools to address their needs and help them when they need it most."

Bank of America's Military Loan Modification Program goes above and beyond existing programs to assist military customers who are leaving active duty domestically or abroad and are struggling to afford their mortgage payment. The program builds on the government's Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP) and provides a waterfall of solutions starting with principal reduction measures to help customers achieve a more affordable mortgage payment as set forth in the HAMP guidelines:

First, immediate principal forgiveness to reduce the amounts owed related to their mortgage to as low as 100 percent of the current market value.

Then, as needed, a reduction of the interest rate, and subsequent extension of the term of the loan to help customers achieve a more affordable mortgage payment.

Beginning April 1, 2011, Bank of America will also offer a 4 percent interest rate on mortgages for active duty military personnel while they are under Service members Civil Relief Act (SCRA) protection. This is lower than the 6 percent rate required by

SCRA guidelines. The 4 percent rate will be applicable for the duration of the borrowers' active duty and for 12 months after release.

Bank of America initially will offer the specialized loan modification program and reduced interest rate to distressed military customers with loans owned and serviced by the bank. The bank is engaged in conversations with investors in other mortgages it services in the interest of expanding these benefits to all the military customers. Participation by those investors is subject to their approval.

Bank of America previously announced it has established a dedicated customer service team for military customers within its mortgage servicing unit. This unit provides service members who have Bank of America mortgages with a single team to contact for assistance with questions or needs related to the bank's full range of mortgage options and related SCRA benefits. The unit is staffed by associates with specialized training and detailed knowledge of SCRA policies and guidelines.

Service members with Bank of America mortgages may reach the dedicated customer service unit at 888.325.5357.

"We recognize the complexity and special considerations of serving customers who are in the military and we are committed to working with the Department of Defense and other stakeholders to help service members who are currently in or exiting active duty and in need of mortgage relief," said Laughlin.

Bank of America has provided specialized financial services to military personnel since 1920 with a long-standing commitment that includes:

Partnership with the Department of Defense providing full-service banking to troops and contractors domestically and overseas, with nearly 80 branches and 300 ATM locations outside the U.S. Employment of more than 5,000 active and veteran U.S. military service members. An employee-based Military Support Affinity Group, which provides networking, mentoring and information forums to help in the advancement and leadership development of service veterans. Nearly \$2 million in grants and other financial support for nonprofit partners who serve military service members, veterans and their families since 2008.

Dignitaries talk policy at KSNG State Conference

*Photos and Story by Sgt. 1st Class Bill McGinnis,
105th MPAD*

Several high dignitaries spoke during the 2011 Kansas National Guard Conference held in the Holiday Inn Holidome Convention Center in Lawrence, Kan., from March 25-27, 2011.

Kansas Governor Sam Brownback and Lt. Gen. Frank Grass, deputy commander for U.S. Northern Command, spoke of their abilities to support the National Guard, their projects they are working on now and what their future aims were.

After their presentations, the Adjutant General of Kansas, Maj. Gen. Lee Tafari; the Director of the Joint Staff, Brig. Gen. Deborah Rose; the Assistant Adjutant General-Army and commander of the Kansas Army National Guard, Brig. Gen. Eric Peck; and the Assistant General-Air and commander of the Kansas Air National Guard, Brig. Gen. Bradley Link, spoke of their involvement with the plans.

Also present for comment and discussion was the 35th Infantry Division commander, Maj. Gen. John Davoren, his deputy commander, Brig. Gen. Vic Braden, as well as Air Force Wing and Army major unit commanders.

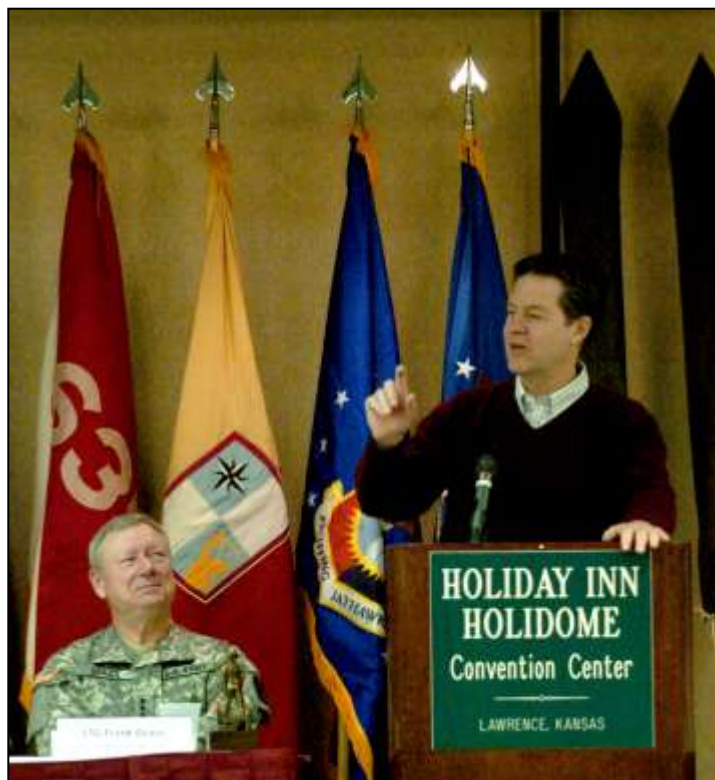
The first speaker was Lt. Gen. Grass who spoke extensively of the ability of the National Guard to protect the citizenry of the United States, emphasizing on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear enterprises (CBRN Enterprises).

"We have 18,000 forces in CBRN able to respond to emergencies here," he said. "At least 25-percent of the force is full-time manned, and the Guard makes up 65-percent of the forces."

Grass pointed out the Department of Defense relied heavily on the Guard for support.

"With the Guard involved in this, we can give a quick response," he said. "We can respond to any emergency within 6-12 hours. Without the Guard's positioning throughout the United States, units would have to come from the coasts, gulf, or elsewhere to give vital help. This is time-sensitive, so the quicker, the better."

Grass also talked about the abilities of the Guard, in conjunction with USNORTHCOM to provide abilities for arctic, air and regional support in military and civilian matters.



USNORTHCOM deputy commander Lt. Gen. Frank Grass listens to Kansas Governor Sam Brownback make his points of the Kansas National Guard.

"In case of an emergency," said Grass, "we work with the local authorities who are in charge of handling the emergency. We're partners with them and we want to be there with the right capabilities, people, and equipment when they need it."

When asked why he accepted the invitation to speak at the conference, why it was important for him to be there and what he hoped he would be able to convey to the attendees, he responded, "when you work in a headquarters like NORTHCOM, you have to stay connected to your customers, and we see the states as our prime customers. If the governor calls the president and says I need support, we want to be ready to move quickly in support of the states. To be able to do that you have to better understand how the states function, because across the map capabilities and strengths of states vary."

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See CONFERENCE, Page 13



**Director of the Joint Staff
Brig. Gen. Deborah Rose**

*From CONFERENCE,
Page 12*

we want to be there with the right capabilities, people, and equipment when they need it.”

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After a standing ovation, Kansas Governor Sam Brownback took the podium.

“The Kansas National Guard is a success story,” said Brownback. “Look to Iraq, it’s a success because of our involvement. Some people might say that the Middle-east doesn’t want freedom or democracy, but now you see with all the unrest over there that this is



**Assistant Adjutant General—Army
and commander of the
Kansas Army National Guard
Brig. Gen. Eric Peck**

of standing up a stable democracy.

“We have to make sure it’s done right,” he said, “to ensure that there’s not a power vacuum, where we would have to go in later and fix that problem. This is a deciding moment in history and we can decide what we want to do—step up and take care of the problem, make similar past choices that didn’t work too well, or do nothing and hope everything doesn’t wither away and decline. We have to do the right thing.

It’s just like we faced in World War II when we decided to commit and win. I believe we can stay on top, and the people need to make the decision to do so, as their leaders need to make the hard decisions.”

Later on that afternoon, Brig. Gen. Bradley Link spoke about the future and ongoing missions the Air National Guard is conducting. The Kansas Air National Guard is involved in operations throughout the globe and supports active missions.

Brig. Gen. Peck followed with a motivational speech where he reminded everyone that the Guard is successful because every member has a skill set that they use in their civilian lives that they can apply to their military lives as well.

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**Assistant Adjutant General—Air
and commander of the Kansas Air
National Guard
Brig. Gen. Bradley Link**

an untrue statement—they do.” Brownback pointed out that the road to success has been long and hard, and will still need attention because, as he stated, the Guard will have ‘fits and starts’ for its long-term mission

See CONFERENCE, Page 14

From CONFERENCE,

Page 13

they use in their civilian lives that they can apply to their military lives as well.

“We must keep in mind our core missions,” said Peck. “The first is domestic response—how can we help the folks back home in case of need?”

“The second is our federal missions—what do we have to do to support our country overseas?”

“And the third is that we must care for our families. They are the core of the National Guard and we need to ensure their well-being.”

Peck pointed out that many possibilities for change can affect the Guard in the future. More virtual trainings, drill and annual training changes, dispersal training and skill-set training were some ideas.

“You will have to keep in mind that how we change will determine the future, and what will you do to make the needed changes,” Peck said.

When asked what he felt the importance of the conference was, he replied,

“Well the importance of the weekend is to get folks together in a professional forum and get them (up on) current events – what’s going on now, what we’ve been doing, and what we see in the future —what kind of things we need folks to focus on in the future. A lot of it goes to how we collaborate. So, it’s not just about how we collaborate in the Army guard, but how do we collaborate in the Army guard, how do we collaborate with the Air guard, how do we collaborate with some of our partners, like in family programs and employer support groups. So, that’s what a lot of this whole thing is about, and then where do we need to be thinking and focusing our energy in the future — what things are important, what things are critical, and then what things have we been doing that aren’t as important. And a lot of the message this weekend is it’s about resources and the constraints on the resources and that we can’t continue to do business the way we’ve done it over the last 10 years.

When asked if he foresees any hurdles to this other than the mindset of the Soldiers, Peck replied,

“A lot of it is the mindset, I mean, that’s the biggest obstacle we have to overcome, because ‘well, we



**Adjutant General of Kansas
Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli**

haven’t ever done it this way.’ And even what I remember from back when I started, we aren’t going to do it the same way we did it then either, because the conditions are different. So, as the conditions change we have to adapt to the conditions, and figure out not just what we need to do today but what people are going to have to do next year, five years from now, and ten years from now; to put things in place that will allow them to successfully operate one year, five years, ten years from now.”

As the need for change occurs now and in the future, Peck mentions what channels are open to service members to help affect positive and productive change that will benefit our uniformed services.

“There are channels in place already. There’s an Adjutant General suggestion forum where you can offer not only complaints about how things are going but suggestions on how we can change things constructively to make things better for folks at the lower levels as well as how we do processes. And that’s really what we’re going to have to look at, is how do we change those things to be more effective from the perspective of time resources and from the perspective of material resources.”

Peck is optimistic about both the changes and challenges that the National Guard will be facing. “Every time you make a change, it gives you some opportunities to do things differently and to come up with different ways to do things within the resources. It’s kind of like, and the general used a good example – the Apollo 13... ‘What do we have available? Dump it on the table, figure out how we can get the job done with what we have available.’ Of course (this is) a little different, because we’re not just talking about things or items, we’re talking about time, we’re talking about dollar resources to either purchase equipment or run equipment, we’re talking about maintaining equipment, we’re talking about doing the administrative tasks...all those areas that impact on what we’re able to do and what we have to do.”

Brig. Gen. Deborah Rose informed the attendees

See CONFERENCE, Page 15

From CONFERENCE, Page 14

that, according to Department of Defense directive 5105.83, Kansas is now a Joint Command.

"It's taken us years, and it's phenomenal," she said. "This will make it easier to conduct our domestic missions when needed."

The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Lee Tafarielli was pleased with everyone's presentations and admitted that by going last in the presentations, that all his 'thunder' was stolen on presenting all the outstanding accomplishments the Kansas National Guard has done in the last year.

"We have tremendous people," said Tafarielli. "They realize that we can't waste our time with all the stuff that's going on—that we have to maximize our time and let the lowest level possible resolve problems, because of our capable people in the Guard."

"For the future we have a non-negotiable contract with Kansas and American citizens to have a trained and ready force that can deal with emergencies."

Tafarielli stated that his goals were to have the Kansas National Guard have relevance and to meet defense and provide homeland security. Also it needs to sustain critical capabilities.

He said he needed this to concentrate on his four areas of interest. The first was threats and trends facing our country.

"We have global unrest and I see the Guard in a high tempo for the future," he said. "Our budgets are shrinking and we will have to do as much, if not more, with less money."

The second focus area was organizational structure. "Our goal is to shape our collective future through our organizational structures, infrastructure and our people. We need to control our destiny."

The third focus area was collaborative culture, where Tafarielli says the goal is to increase our chances of success by operating with joint forces with other units, entities and the private sector.

The fourth focus area was individual development. "We have to ask ourselves what the future Guard member will look like, how will they need to be different than we are now, what skills and training will they need and how will we build them."

He admits he needs everyone's help to be successful in attaining these goals.

"There are three things I need your input on.

You can call my office, email us or send it in the mail, but I want to know three things."

"One—What are three things we can do to prepare the Kansas National Guard for future challenges?

Two—How do we build the future Kansas National Guard Soldier and Airman?

Three—How do we control our destiny?"

"If we focus on these things, we can shape a successful future for us, the state of Kansas, and America," Tafarielli said.

As a forefront to all the coming change, Tafarielli hopes the leaders at the conference will take away the information and vision that was cast by the general officers and look for ways the National Guard can improve beyond the status quo.

He said, "we find ourselves at a crossroads right now with reduced resources and significant challenges ahead, and I think it also provides some opportunities for us to provide additional capabilities for support of our homeland security mission and our overseas mission. The key thing ahead that I want everybody to understand is that things are going to be different, because of the resource constraints that we're going to have to operate in, and that's going to force us as an organization to operate in a different manner than we've had to operate; at least in the last nine or ten years since we started, in the aftermath of 9/11 and the global war on terrorism. So, the future for us is going to be different – it's going to require us to be more innovative and more adaptable to the current and future needs that we have as an organization and as a state.



USNORTHCOM deputy commander Lt. Gen. Frank Grass speaks to a packed house during the conference.

National Guard Association of Kansas Awards for 2011

After the professional development ended on Saturday, an evening banquet was held to recognize individuals with Kansas National Guard ties that have exceeded in their support during the last year.

The Kansas Army National Guard outstanding Guardsman for 2010 was Master Sgt. Rodney Moyer of the 635th Regional Support Group.

The Kansas Army National Guard Non-Commissioned Officer of the year was Staff Sgt. Jared Meir, while the Kansas Army National Guard Best Individual Soldier of the Year was Spc. Stephen Levins.

The Kansas Army National Guard Warrant Officer of the Year was Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kevin Herman, while the Kansas Army National Guard Company Grade Officer of the Year was Capt. Wallace Miller.

The Kansas Air National Guard Company Grade Officer of the Year was Capt. Kevin Cline

The Kansas Airman of the Year was Senior Airman Nathan Thibault, of the 184th Intelligence Wing, who is currently deployed, so the award was accepted by Chief Master Sgt. Chad Johnson.

*See NGAKS
Awards, Page 17*

Right —The Army Family of the Year was awarded to the McMahan family, Susan and Sgt. Maj. John McMahan .



Above photo—The Kansas Air National Guard Honor Guard Member of the Year was Master Sgt. Jerry Gardinier of the 184th Intelligence Wing who received the award from Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Lee Tapanelli (left) and Director of the Joint Staff, Brig. Gen. Deborah Rose.



Above —
The Army Youth of the Year was awarded to Ty Shafer.



Adjutant General Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafarielli awards Master Sgt. Rodney Moyer of the 635th Regional Support Group the 2010 Kansas Army National Guard Best Individual Soldier of the Year award and a watch while assistant adjutant general-Army and commander of the Kansas Army National Guard, Brig. Gen. Eric Peck looks on.

Photos by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD.

From NGAKS Awards, Page 16

The Air Non-Commissioned Officer of the year is Tech. Sgt. Keith Melvin of the 184th Intelligence Wing.

The Air Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year was Master Sgt. Leland McKinley, also of the 184th Intelligence Wing.

The Kansas Air National Guard First Sergeant of

the Year was Master Sgt. Kevin Wagner of the 190th Air Refueling wing.

The Kansas Air National Guard Honor Guard Member of the Year was Master Sgt. Jerry Gardinier of the 184th Intelligence Wing.

The Kansas Air National Guard Overall Outstanding Airman for 2010 was Tech. Sgt. Keith Melvin of the 184th Intelligence Wing.

Four individuals were recognized for their outstanding service to the National Guard Association of Kansas and were presented the National Guard Association of Kansas Distinguished Service Medal. Retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Carl Bush, Mr. Jeremy Stohs and outgoing NGAKS President, Col. Chris Stratman were awarded the medal, while retired Lt. Col. Ray Rhodd received his second Distinguished Service Medal.

The final National Guard Association award was that for Spouse of the Year. Lt. Col. Scott Henry was this year's winner.

After these recipients were named, the Family Programs Awards were presented. This program recognizes outstanding Kansas National Guard volunteers. The first award was for the Newsletter of the Year. This year's winner was Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 130th field Artillery.

Master Sgt. Tammy Wells won the Military Person of the Year Award.

See NGAKS Awards, Page 18



Above left photo—*Drielle Welch was named the Army Volunteer of the Year while (above middle photo) Denise Humphrey took home the Air Volunteer of the Year Award. (above right photo) Mia Mukes was awarded the Air Youth of the Year.*

From NGAKS Awards, Page 17

The Army Unit of the Year was the 35th Military Police Company, while the air unit of the year was the 184th Intelligence Group.

The Army Youth of the Year was Ty Shafer while Mia Mukes was awarded the Air Youth of the Year.

Drielle Welch was named the Army Volunteer of the Year while Denise Humphrey took home the Air Volunteer of the Year Award.

The Army Family of the Year was the John and Susan McMahan family while the Air Family of the Year was the Perkins and Lacore family.



Above photo—The Air family of year was the Perkins and Lacore family. (from left) Barbara Lacore, Scott Perkins, Air National Guard Master Sgt. Tina Perkins, Senior Airman David Lacore, Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Brett Starbuck, Carrie Starbuck and Justin Pavis accepted the award.

Left—Outgoing National Guard Association of Kansas President, Col. Chris Stratman assists newly elected president Col. Mike Erwin in drawing for prizes throughout the night.

More photos on Page 19



Left photo—Newly elected National Guard Association of Kansas President Col. Mike Erwin (left) and outgoing president, Col. Chris Stratman (right) awards Lt. Col. Scott Henry the Spouse of the Year Award.

Middle photo—Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Lee Taffanelli awards the Army Unit of the Year to 35th Military Police Company. Accepting the award was Ms. Michelle Laiter and 1st Lt. Ross.

Right photo—Col. Michael Tokarz received the Kansas Air National Guard Unit of the year award for the 184th Intelligence Wing.



Above left photo—Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Lee Taffanelli awards the Kansas Air National Guard Overall Outstanding Airman Award for 2010 to Tech. Sgt. Keith Melvin of the 184th Intelligence Wing. The Director of the Joint Staff, Brig. Gen. Deborah Rose assisted.

Above middle photo—Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Lee Taffanelli, assisted by **(right)** assistant adjutant general—Army, commander of the Kansas Army National Guard, Brig. Gen. Eric Peck, awards the Kansas Army National Guard Army Soldier of the Year award to Spc. Stephen Levins and **(above right photo)** Staff Sgt. Jared Meir was awarded the Kansas Army National Guard Non-Commissioned Officer of the year



Left photo—Winners of the Company Grade Officer of the Year were Capt. Wallace Miller for the Army and **(lower left photo)** Capt. Kevin Cline .

Warrant Officer of the year was **(lower right photo)** Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kevin Herman.

Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Lee Taffanelli, assisted by Director of the Joint Staff, Brig. Gen. Deborah Rose, assistant adjutant general—Army, commander of the Kansas Army National Guard, Brig. Gen. Eric Peck and Command Chief Warrant Officer, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Hector Vasquez awarded these prestigious awards.

More photos on Page 20





Receiving awards from Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafarielli and Director of the Joint Staff, Brig. Gen. Deborah Rose, were **(Above far left)** Tech. Sgt. Keith Melvin of the 184th Intelligence Wing for the Kansas Air National Guard Overall Outstanding Airman of 2010. **(Above left)** Command Chief Master Sgt. Chad Johnson accepts the Airman of the Year award for Senior Airman Nathan Thibault of the 184th Intelligence Wing. **(Above right)** The Kansas Air National Guard First Sergeant of the Year was Master Sgt. Kevin Wagner of the 190th Air Refueling Wing. **(Above far right)** Master Sgt. Jerry Gardinier of the 184th Intelligence Wing was the Kansas Air National Guard Honor Guard Member of the Year.

Right photo—The winner of the Newsletter of the Year Award Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery. Accepting the award for Battery C was Lt. Col. Chris Burr, commander of the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery.

Bottom Left — Denise Humphrey won the Air Volunteer of the Year.

**More photos on
Page 21**



(Left-Middle) The Kansas Air National Guard Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year was master Sgt. Leland McKinley of the 184th Intelligence Wing.

(Left) The Military Person of the Year was Master Sgt. Tammy Wells of the 190th Air Refueling Wing.

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Bill McGinnis, 105th MPAD



Recipients of the National Guard Association of Kansas Distinguished Service Medal were presented their awards by incoming president Col. Mike Erwin and outgoing president Col. Chris Stratman. They were **(top left)** retired Lt. Col. Ray Rhodd, who received his second Distinguished Service Medal; **(top middle)** retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Carl Bush; Mr. Jeremy Stohs **(not pictured)** and **(top right)** Col. Chris Stratman.

Erwin outlines strategies to improve Association for next year

Getting down to business was a top priority for newly elected National Guard Association of Kansas (NGAKS) president, Col. Mike Erwin.

"I have five areas of emphasis that I want to address and improve," said Erwin.

"The first area of emphasis is to increase active membership for NGAKS. This begins with our company grade officers and warrant officers."

Erwin wants officers from every discipline involved and wants to take aggressive steps to energize the company grade officers and warrant officers to become more involved by planning events, encourage committee membership and polling members for the items that are important to them.

The second area of emphasis is to build upon the base of corporate members who support the association.

"We need corporate members to support the efforts of the association," Erwin said. "There are a lot of companies that support the military and would like to do something for us. In return, we must support each and every corporate member in our professional and personal lives."

The third area is to continue and enhance NGAKS's legislative efforts. Erwin says that NGAKS must build these relationships stronger as the United States heads for tough economic years.

National Guard Association of Kansas Officers for 2011—

President—Col. Mike Erwin

First Vice President—Lt. Col. Eric Bishop

Second Vice President—Col. Derek Rogers

Treasurer—Maj. Ken Weishaar

Secretary—Maj. Steve Denney

Past President—Col. Chris Stratman

The fourth emphasis is to continue to manage the insurance program. A vast majority of NGAKS's operating funds are generated by commissions from the sale of the life insurance that is offered and plans to hire a new insurance administrator to take retired Col. Malen 'Butch' Dowse's position as he retires is a priority.

The last emphasis is on developing a better process of communicating the NGAKS story to members.

"We must also keep in mind," says Erwin, "that we must also enhance our relationship with the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Kansas, family programs, and Employers Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). They are our partners and it is imperative that we work side by side to meet the needs of Kansas Guard members."

Youth learn to be creative

Story and photos by Spc. Stephanie Hodges,
105th MPAD

Thirty military youth, ages 11-18, participated in the Kansas National Guard Youth Symposium's *A Backpack Journalist* program during the 2011 Joint Conference, Friday through Sunday, March 25-27. The attendees were taught the fundamentals of songwriting, writing, and photography. Each category emphasized the concept of helping military youth find their "voice."

The youth were broken into three small groups that rotated each category by way of stations. Each station concentrated on the fundamental principles of the specified art and allowed the children to apply the skill first hand.

During the songwriting rotation, a song was produced and recorded by each group. Arrays of musical instruments were utilized, and vocals were sung by any and all participants. The concept emphasized writing, expressing emotions and words, visualizing the thoughts on a piece of paper, and then composing songs they could relate to. Ultimately the process gave the children a musical voice.

"I think it is very important that young people know how to deal with emotions and learn how to express those emotions in a way that have positive consequences," stated Bowers, "I think songwriting does that."

The writing station allowed for every child to write a non-fiction story about a defining moment in their life. The concept puts emphasis on the ability to conceptualize, process, and cope with their emotions through written expression. According to David Knight, *A Backpack Journalist* headmaster, for military youth, it can provide a different avenue to communicate better with their parent or guardian who is a service member.

Knight gave a military example, "I am a deployed father and I am missing prom. My daughter can write about what it was or take photos of what it was. Then I can almost be there. It won't be as good as being there. But I am almost there."

The photography portion furnished each participant with a camera to operate and allowed them to take multiple digital photos of various objects and



Alicia Duggins, daughter of Lt. Col. Susan and Dana Duggins, receives help writing a song from Josh Bowers, an A Backpack Journalist instructor, during the 2011 NGAKS Youth Symposium. The Youth Symposium consisted of events designed for Kansas National Guard youth to enrich educational experience, socialize and a chance to show appreciation for volunteer work.

peer portraits. The concept highlighted the opportunity of capturing the story within the frame of a camera.

The youth presented their media projects at the Family Programs Award Breakfast at the Holiday Inn Express on Sunday. Three stories that portrayed the nature of written expression were chosen to be read aloud. Each song was then performed live with instruments and singing that echoed the experience. The room then fell dark and a photography slideshow began displaying the photos taken by each youth participant and a short biography.

The presentation concluded with the teaching staff presenting each participant with a certificate of completion, a framed self-photo, and a CD with his or her media projects.

"Some kids don't see the importance of the program at first, they don't see how much it will help them," stated Skylar Dickey, *A Backpack Journalist* participant and son of Sgt. Donald Dickey, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, "However, once they start working with it, they really get into it, they just have to try it first."

A Backpack Journalist is a program that offers educational and emotional support for military youth

See CREATIVE, Page 23

Family Programs Awards breakfast

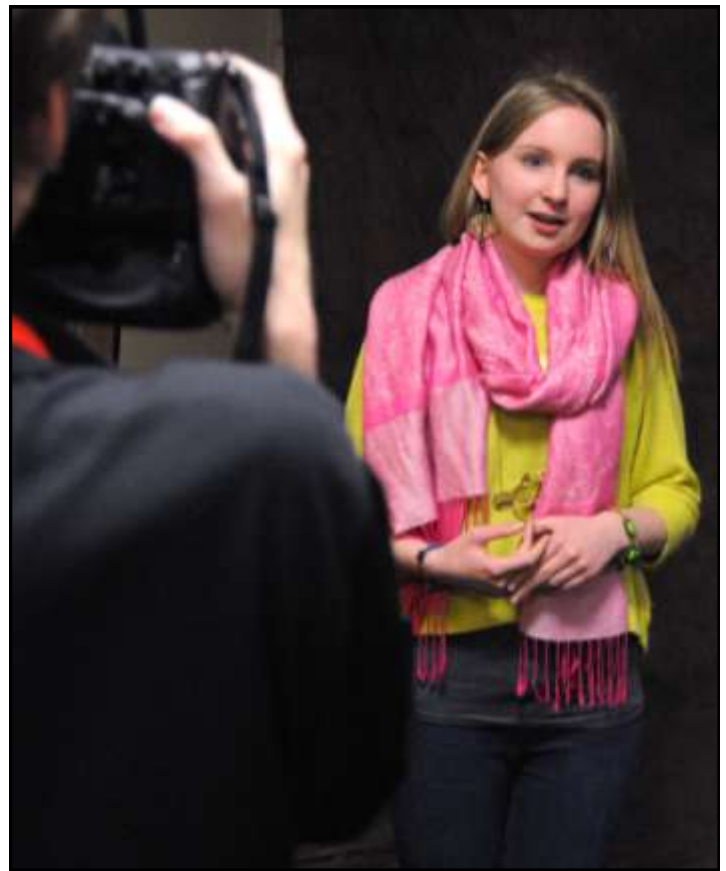
Story by Spc. Stephanie Hodges, 105th MPAD

Kansas National Guard Family Programs hosted the annual Family Programs Award Banquet at the Holiday Inn Express, Lawrence, Kan., on March 27. The awards ceremony demonstrates appreciation and recognition to Kansas National Guard (KSNG) volunteers, families and friends for significant achievement and service to the KSNG Family Program. Any individual who has served a period of time in support of Family Programs, and benefited morale, cohesion and *esprit de corps* of the service members and families of the KSNG is eligible for awards.

"I am privileged to recognize all the wonderful volunteers who have worked relentlessly this past year in support of our programs, their units, and the families of all Kansas National Guard servicemembers," stated Michelle Williams, state senior family readiness support assistant.

The Horizon Award was presented to any volunteer who has provided support above and beyond the normal volunteer. These individuals help to expand the program by training and encouraging other volunteers through their selflessness. They are the mentors and knowledge base for volunteers. The Horizon Award requires a minimum of 500 documented service volunteer hours. The recipient that was present to receive the award was Janet Kristinat, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment. The recipient that was not present to receive the award was Jolene Lowe, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery.

The Pioneer Award was presented to any volunteer who has displayed a commitment, not only to the unit but also to the morale and cohesion of the fami-



Pia Heckmann, a German foreign exchange student, poses for a photograph during the photography portion of the A Backpack Journalism program at the 2011 NGAKS Youth Symposium.

lies within the unit, and requires a minimum of 200 service volunteer hours yet not to exceed 499 hours.

The recipients that were present to receive the award are as follows: Susan McMahan, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, 635th Regional Support Group; Ty Shafer, son of Lt. Col. Jon and Lisa Shafer; Tammy Wells-Switzer, 190th Air Refueling Wing; and Jahna Yuhn, daughter of Sgt. Maj. Darrin and Carmen Yuhn.

See FP AWARDS, Page 24

From CREATIVE, Page 22

through the deployment cycle, and provides training on various media that allows youth to express themselves and connect with others.

"The stress of the program is on the positive, on doing rather than talking, on personal empowerment and on recognizing the wonderful contributions of our military to our way of life," according to Frederic J. Medway, Ph. D, Professor Emeritus, Psychology, University of Southern California.

The basics are taught by a teaching staff of ex-

perienced high school teachers, college professors, and published songwriters from all over the United States who share a love of communicating with youth and are dedicated to making a difference in the life of the military youth.

According to Linda Dennis *A Backpack Journalist* program manager, the key to the *A Backpack Journalist* program is finding one's voice. It recognizes that participants all along had the voice, feelings and emotions but just needed the right outlet.

For more information on the *A Backpack Journalist* program visit www.abackpackjournalist.com.



Jessica Zillner is presented with the Frontier Award from Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, Kansas National Guard's Adjutant General, for volunteer service during 2010 to Kansas units. The awards were presented during Family Programs Awards Breakfast.

From FP AWARDS, Page 23

The recipients that were not present to receive the award are as follows: Virginia Anthony, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment, 69th Troop Command; Adrienne Hubbard, 226th Engineer Company, 891st Engineer Battalion, 287th Sustainment Brigade; and Amy Rijkogel, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, 635th Regional Support Group.

The Frontier Award was presented to volunteers that contributed significantly to an activity or a group of activities that generated an environment that elevated the quality of life within their unit. This award requires a minimum of 50 service volunteer hours, but not to exceed 199 hours. The recipients that were present to receive the award are as follows: Tina Askins; Rhonda Buttell; Mary Crabb; Skylar Dickey, son of Sgt. Donald and Adrienne Dickey; Sawyer Green, son of Air National Guard Lt. Col. Mark and Linda Green; Allyson Henry, daughter of Lt. Col. Henry and Michele Henry; Denise Humphrey; Whitney Kristinat; Barb Lacore; Michelle Laiter; Jane Lyons; Melissa Moon; Carla Mukes and Mia Mukes, wife and daughter of (Ret) Senior Master Sgt. William Mukes; Sophia Olsen, daughter of Tech. Sgt. Jody and Dana Olsen; Tina Perkins; Patti Phillips; Theresa Schmitt; Sheri Taylor; Tina Wahweotten; Drielle Welch; and Jessica Zillner. The recipients that were not present to receive the award are as follows: Stacy Barnes; Brenda Bernard; Sheila Bolieu; Jenni-

fer Boswell; Carrody Buchhorn; Brigitte Chartrand; Samantha Cole; Marie Delong; Tamara Edington; Alicia Foster; Barbara George; Michael Hagerty; Sharon Harter; Bridget Haybarker; Preston Henry, son of Air National Guard Master Sgt. William and Patti Phillips; Susan Hernandez; Sarah Indermuhle; Ashley Isbell; Laura Krom; Stephanie Limon; Sarah Mendez; Mark Mertel; Betsy Mullis; Tanya Piland; Andy Piper; Mary Powledge; Darla Ramsey; Carol Roush; Stacy Sanders; Kassidy Seaba, daughter of Capt. Roney and Jamey Seaba; Anna Tavares; Bill Vanstory; Dottie Westerngren; Reed Wheeler, son of Lt. Col. Howard and Laura Wheeler; Sherry Willard; and Mason Witzke, son of Sgt. 1st Class Phillip and Denise Witzke.

The award banquet acknowledged and honored the volunteer of the Kansas National Guard. Williams expressed gratitude to each and every award recipient.

"Each and every volunteer has allowed for expansion of the program and has solidified the perception of what of a strong foundation of family support is-strength," said Williams. "Their volunteerism shows their dedication to the program the families they serve."

IS YOUR STORY BEING TOLD ?

**Every unit has stories to tell and things that they are doing that should be shared with other Soldiers throughout the state. Submit your stories or ideas to the Kansas Sentinel and the Plains Guardian by contacting us at:
phillip.witzke@ng.army.mil**

Families, volunteers recognized

*Story by Spc. Stephanie Hodges
105th MPAD*

Family Programs hosted their State Conference in Lawrence, Kan., March 26-27. The conference is a time for professional development and appreciation for volunteers of the Kansas National Guard. Participants are educated about what Family Programs does within the National Guard and how to become involved. Volunteers who have supported service members, families, or Family Programs of the Kansas National Guard are recognized for their efforts through awards given during the conference.

"The Family Programs Office has truly reached thousands of family members across the state because of each volunteer," stated Michelle Williams, State Senior Family Readiness Support Assistant, "Due to their countless hours of hard work and dedication, they have made an positive impact on the families of the Kansas National Guard."

The conference kicked off Saturday, with a social Professional Development Luncheon at The Oread Hotel. The social gathering was open to spouses, family members, and volunteers of the Kansas National Guard.

Attendees were provided a casual lunch and relaxing atmosphere allowing them to mingle and socialize and learn more about Family Programs. Lunch was proceeded with a demonstration by Rynette Reiling, a Kansas National Guard volunteer, on how to decorate tables. The presentation provided pointers for various table décor for the upcoming spring season.

Immediately after the demonstration, Wendy Day, an experienced leadership counselor, lead a Communication Boot Camp workshop where she discussed the importance of communication and barriers that can cause. She emphasized how to communicate amid one's peers and reasons to why communication is important in personal and public relationships. Day also discussed the characteristics of various personalities. She closed the workshop with a discussion on ways to manage more effective conversation among each character, no matter the personality differences.

The luncheon concluded with a raffle of prizes provided by Sky Dex Technology Inc., a 2011 Joint Conference vendor, and Tammy Tafarielli, wife of Maj. Gen. Lee Tafarielli.

"The door prizes gave us an opportunity to say 'thank you' to our volunteers and family members," stated Denise Winton, Airman and Family Readiness Program Manager. "We know freedom is not free and we wanted to recognize the sacrifice each individual has made."

The evening allowed for Family Programs to honor distinguished volunteers. The awards and their recipients are as follows.

Newsletter of the Year was presented to Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery. This award is given to the unit that keeps their families most informed of Family Readiness activities throughout the year in the form of a newsletter.

Military Person of the year was awarded to Master Sgt. Tammy Wells-Switzer, 190th Air Refueling Wing. The award is based on a service member's dedication to the Family Readiness Group in ensuring that its mission is met and supported by the unit. Unit of the Year honorees included 35th Military Police Company, 69th Troop Command and 184th Intelligence Group. The purpose of the award is to recognize the most outstanding unit in Family Readiness Programs.

Volunteer of the Year was presented to Drielle Welch, volunteer of Company E, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment; and Denise Humphrey, 190th Air Refueling Wing. The award recognizes volunteers who have established themselves through countless hours of service in meeting the needs of service member families.

Family of the Year was awarded to 1st Sgt. John and Susan McMahan, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, and the Perkins and Lacore Family, 190th Air Refueling Wing. The award identifies families who contributed to the well being of service members and their families through many hours of volunteering.

Family Programs concluded its conference with its Family Program Awards Breakfast on Sunday. The breakfast was dedicated to acknowledge more volunteers.

Family Programs is a growing support entity, and it is sustained by volunteers of all ages. This yearly conference allots time for additional education and appreciation of these humble heroes of the Kansas National Guard.

Honor your Unit's History at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard

The Museum of the Kansas National Guard is trying to raise funds for future projects. With the purchase of 30 new bricks, the Museum Board will purchase two specially painted and engraved header stones to outline your unit area. This can be your unit crest or design you prefer to honor your organization. The goal is to have every Battalion/Squadron, Regiment, Brigade/Wing and Division level unit represented. Companies or deployed unit symbols can be engraved and added to the patio also. Units with existing bricks are encouraged to purchase header bricks for their unit areas. Currently the 137th Infantry Regiment, 635th Armor Regiment, 635th Tank Destroyers and 69th Infantry Brigade have their crests engraved. The 35th Division Annex and Brick Patio area is complete and available for the project. This is the time to honor your unit, your service or your

family by ordering your inscribed brick. This tax deductible gift helps support the museum. These engraved bricks make great Birthday or Holiday presents. Individual Bricks: To purchase individual bricks to for your unit area, complete the order form and return your desired inscription and check or money order payable to the KS National Guard Museum so your brick can be included in your unit area. Please indicate which unit area you wish to have your brick placed. We will send a receipt for your tax deductible contribution to the address you provide.



Museum Patio Project Order Form

Name: _____ Rank _____ Telephone _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip-Code

E-Mail: _____

To purchase colored unit stones: E-mail your colored design/picture to the Museum kngmuseum@aol.com (785-862-1020), or project officer Robert.bloomquist@us.army.mil and send check or money order to museum address below.

(1) \$150 for 8x8 color engraved stone for Company/Battalion/Squadron

(2) \$200 for 8x12 color engraved stone for Regiment, Brigade/Wing and Division

To Purchase Individual Bricks for the Patio:

Exterior Brick (\$50 each) Inscription is 3 lines, max 14 letters/spaces per line

Indicated which unit area you wish to place this brick in: _____

Kansas National Guard Museum

ATTN: Unit Brick Project

P.O. 19285

Topeka, KS 66619-0285



Museum has M*A*S*H 4077

Brig. Gen. retired, Ed Gerhardt poses with the iconic sign from the set of the television show MASH, part of the new MASH display recently donated to the Kansas National Guard Museum.

Photo and artwork by PFC Robert Havens, 105th MPAD

Story by Sgt. Beverly Fortner, 105th MPAD

If you are looking for something to do one of these upcoming weekends as the weather warms up, you just might want to think about taking a field trip to go and see the newest addition housed at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard over at Forbes Field in Topeka, Kan. And if you include yourself as one of

the many huge fans of the hit television series MASH, who devotedly watched all the episodes from the series that were originally broadcast from September 1972 to February 1983, then you will not want to waste another minute and get yourself over to view “The Swamp,” the Museum’s newest addition to its permanent collection.

The “Swamp” set that was created for MASH, which was actually just the sleeping quarters (complete with home-made still) for some of the show’s best-known characters like Hawkeye Pierce, Trapper John McIntyre and B.J. Hunnicut, was a fitting backdrop for MASH’s dark and hilarious commentary on war, and the Korean War in particular. It is well-known that everybody involved with making the television MASH series went to great lengths to recreate that Korean War landscape of the early 1950s when the U.S. military had troops fighting there. And in witnessing this “Swamp” exhibit you will immediately discover that this set has been painstakingly recreated down to the smallest detail.

Two men in particular can claim ownership to the set’s existence, as original owner David Dilday of Orlando, Fl., and subsequent owner Bill Smith of Sunrise Beach, Mo., became extensively involved in acquiring the many pieces that accurately and authentically replicate those items used in the series. This required years of tedious research to make this “Swamp” be as authentic as the original. In saying this, the exhibit at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard may well be a one of a kind gem, surviving even the original MASH series sets.

Retired Brig. Gen. Ed Gerhardt, a board member and volunteer at the Kansas Guard Museum, said the museum became interested in ‘The Swamp’ when Bill Smith brought the replica to Topeka last July and displayed it during the annual convention of the Military Preservation Association at the Kansas Expocentre. And it was while the set was at the Expocentre on display for four days that Bill Smith soon came to realize its true value in terms of what it meant to the public at large.

Smith relates, “People were just thrilled ... they were just fascinated by it.” Smith thought about one visitor in particular, a young military veteran who was in a MASH unit in Iraq, saying, “He must have spent two hours in the tent with me, just sitting and talking about his experience.”

Smith has an interesting story he relates about how he acquired the “Swamp” replica. It began with a life-long interest in collecting military items, starting with



Top: “The Swamp” was painstakingly recreated and erected in the Museum of the Kansas National Guard and includes many pieces that accurately and authentically replicate the items used in the series.

Above: The cot of the character Maj. Burns is displayed just as it was on set of the MASH show.

a 1952 M38 (MC) military jeep, of Korean War vintage, and he would show this jeep at car shows and in parades. Being a big fan of MASH, this started Smith in the direction of also collecting MASH-related items, like a small pop-up MASH tent, and also a few medical instruments and some cots too, which he included and put on display with his jeep.

Then, Bill came across David’s full-scale “Swamp” tent by chance a few years ago, in 2009, when he was searching on the Internet for a model of the swamp tent. Bill knew that Revell Toys had put out a plastic model of the tent, but he was even more amazed when stated, “up pops this picture of a full-size tent.” And

See MASH, Page 39

KS 150th Armed Forces Celebration

The Combat Air Museum and the Museum of the Kansas National Guard will hold the Kansas 150th Armed Forces Celebration at Forbes Field in Topeka, Kansas on June 4-5th, 2011.

The event will last from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday.

The Combat Air Museum (785-862-3303) has an admission price of \$6 for adults, \$4 for children ages 5-17, and is free to active military with their ID card. It features static displays of aircraft. The Museum of the Kansas National Guard (785-862-1020) has free admission offers a new exhibit, the MASH exhibit. Both museums offer concession stands.

The State of Kansas has a long, rich and colorful military heritage. It began with the frontier forts of Ft. Leavenworth, Ft. Riley, Ft. Scott and Ft. Larned, protecting our Nation's westward expansion along the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails, and continued through Kansas' first century as our military leaders passed through the Armed Forces Command and General Staff College and onto the battlefields in the Civil War and to those overseas. We proudly recognize the First Infantry Division's victory at Cantigny and Soissons in France, to the mighty 35th Division's participation in both World Wars.

Over the last fifty years Kansas' military operations have included the 69th Infantry Brigade service in Vietnam with the loss of 38 lives, Kansas Army National Guard units serving in Afghanistan, Bosnia/Kosovo and Iraq, the 184th Intelligence Wing, the first such wing in the Air National Guard, and the



190th Air Refueling Wing's leading role in Desert Shield/Desert Storm. In all these theaters, on the world stage, the Kansas military has proved itself worthy in the eyes of the Nation.

Our State's proud military lineage is truly embodied in the thousands of dedicated citizen-soldiers who have served our great Nation and, as Kansas celebrates its 150th anniversary, it is appropriate that we lift up, for special recognition, the role our State's armed forces have played in the military affairs of our Nation from its frontiers to foreign soil around and throughout the World.

The Mission this weekend is to recognize, record, demonstrate, celebrate and proclaim the long, rich and colorful military heritage of the State of Kansas on the occasion of its sesquicentennial anniversary of statehood.

Sponsors & Participants: Museum of the Kansas National Guard; Combat Air Museum; 190th Air Refueling Wing, Kansas Air National Guard; Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Inf Div (Big Red One), Fort Riley ; American Legion, Patriot Guard; Military Order of the World Wars; Kansas Dept. of Transportation – Aviation Dept.; Heartland Park, Topeka; Military Vehicle Preservation Assn.; Rolling Thunder Chapter; Vietnam Veterans of America; Experimental Aircraft Association, Chapter 313; STARBASE, Inc.; Metropolitan Topeka Airport Authority; Skydive Kansas; Great Plains Balloon Club, Topeka; KAW Valley Amateur Radio Club; MillionAir Aviation; Commemorative Air Force, Wichita; Topeka Lodging Association; Eagle 99.3 FM & WIBW; Kansas Army & Air National Guard



Schedules on Page 30

Museum of the Kansas



Heartland Military Day WWII Vehicle Display

Rolling Thunder Chapter, MVPA

101st & 35th Division Re-enactors

Civil War Re-enactors

McClain's Ind. Battery, Sons of Union veterans,

Civil war Medicine

Vietnam Vets of America

Military Equipment

Army & Army Guard

KAW Valley Amateur Radio Club

Short Wave Radio Demonstrations

Army Guard Recruiting Command

HMMWV, Inflatables, Motorcycle

STARBASE

10 - 2 pm Rocket Building & La

Combat Air Museum



Aircraft Display

(On Ramp, East of Museum)

Commemorative Air Force (Rides Available)

Experimental Aircraft Association

Military Aircraft

KSU-Salina Aircraft

P-51 Mustang: Steve Craig

Combat Aviation Brigade Helicopters

Lifestar helicopter

Kansas Highway patrol Aircraft

T-6 & T-38 Aircraft

Car Shows

(in parking lot, across from Museum)

Free Entry: Prizes & Awards

Classic Car Show - Saturday

Antique Car Show - Sunday

Other

(On Forbes Field, beyond Museum Ramp)

Schedule of Activities Saturday June 4th

6:30 am Hot Air Balloon: Tethered & Ascent

(Great Plains Balloon Club)

Location: Southeast of Chapel

7:00-9:00 Pancake Feed

Location: Kansas National Guard Museum

8:00 am Museums Open

(see activities and static displays at Museums)

9:00-3:00 pm Classic/Custom Car Show

Location: Parking lot across from Combat Air Museum

10:00 am Opening Ceremony

Location: Kansas National Guard Museum

Patriot Field

10:00 am Skydiving

(Skydive Kansas) Location: North of Chapel

10:00-2:00 pm Model Airplane Flying

(Radio-controlled Aircraft Clubs & Control Line Club)

Location: North of Classic Car Show opposite &

west of Combat Air Museum, near Coca-Cola

10:15 am WWII Battle Re-enactment

Location: East of Chapel

11:00 am Parade

Route: From Forbes Field Terminal, north on J-St., to 4-North St., west on 4-North St. to B-St., south on B-St., to 3rd St., east on 3rd St., to E St., south on E St. to J St., north on J St., back to Terminal

3:00 pm WWII Battle Re-enactment

Location: East of Chapel

Dusk: Hot Air Balloon: Tethered & Ascent

(Great Plains Balloon Club)

Location: Southeast of Chapel

Sunday June 5th

6:30 am Hot Air Balloon: Tethered & Ascent

(Great Plains Balloon Club)

Location: Southeast of Chapel

9:00 am Museums Open

(see activities and static displays at Museums)

9:00-3:00 pm Antique Car Show

Location: Parking lot across from Combat Air Museum

10:00-2:00 pm Model Airplane Flying

Location: Opposite & west of Combat Air Museum

The Seventh Annual Kansas Veteran's Memorial Bass Tournament



The Seventh Annual Kansas Veteran's Memorial Bass Tournament in memory of all fallen Kansas service men and women will be held on April 30, 2011, at the Coffey County Lake near Wolf Creek Generating Station, Burlington, Kan. This tournament is to celebrate the freedom and pursuit of happiness that we enjoy as Americans. So join us in recognizing the fallen heroes of Kansas that gave the ultimate sacrifice for our American Freedom.

This is a boat tournament, bring your own boat and fill it with as many participants as the boat can legally hold. Top 5 places will receive prizes. 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery Family Support Group is hosting this tournament. This is a fun tournament you can start from 30 minutes after sunrise until 8:30 a.m. and ends at 12 p.m. or earlier if you need. Prizes will be awarded after the final boat returns or 12:30 p.m. whichever is the earliest.

There is "NO" entry fee for this tournament.
Prizes and Trophy's will be awarded.
Bratwurst, Hamburgers and side dishes
will be served at the end of the event.
Date: April 30, 2011 at Coffey County
Lake (near Wolf Creek)

Point of contact for this tournament is Bryson Wiedmer ,
 (785)-742-5638

Official Entry Form

Boater Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Hm

Phone: _____

Wk Phone: _____

Boat Registration Number: _____

State: _____

Year & Model of boat: _____

Boat Motor HP: _____

I have read and will comply with the above stated tournament rules and regulations;

Boater's Signature _____

Send form to: 2nd Battalion 130th FA

Attn: SSG Bryson Wiedmer

108 North 1st Street

Hiawatha, Kansas 66434

Point of contact for this tournament is Bryson Wiedmer ,
 (785)-742-5638

TSHIRT SIZE: XS, S, M, L, XL,2XL, 3XL
(CIRCLE ONE)

Through the lens...

S'mores...Japanese Style

By Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke,
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Ahhhh; the sweet, gooey, crunchy, chocolaty yumminess of the all American s'more! It is just as much a part of Americana as baseball and apple pie.

While participating in Yama Sakura 59, Soldiers of the 35th Infantry Division shared a bit of their American culture with their Japanese counterparts, teaching them to make the tasty summer treat on the heaters in their command tents.

No one knows exactly where the idea to make s'mores on the heaters came from but once the idea was proposed, the plan was put together and events set into motion and the idea took a life of its own. Soldiers searched the Japanese post exchange for ingredients, but the classic ingredients of the American version could not be found. In true Army form, the soldiers improvised, adapted and overcame the obstacle, using what was readily available.

Since no graham crackers could be found, graham cookies were improvised. The traditional marshmallow was also unavailable; in its place were blueberry filled marshmallow "candy".

See S'mores, Page 33



Sergeant 1st Class Jeremy Mansell teaches Japanese Ground Self-defense Force soldier, Capt. Yoshitomo Ota the art of toasting marshmallows. Mansell and other soldiers of the 35th Division taught Japanese soldiers the time honored tradition of making s'mores while "camping." The 35th Infantry Division was in Japan as part of the Yama Sakura 59 exercise. Yama Sakura, a bilateral command post exercise, was conducted at Camp Kengun, Kyushu, Japan, January 21- February 3, and focuses on strengthening the working relationships between the Japan Ground Self Defense Force and the U.S. Army.



Melted marshmallows are placed on a graham cookie during the construction of a s'more. American soldiers of the 35th Infantry Division taught their Japanese counterparts the art of making the tasty summer time treat while participating in Yama Sakura 59.



*Top: Capt. Yoshitomo Ota takes a bite of his first s'more.
Top –right: the proper placement of marshmallow and chocolate is demonstrated for Ota, so he can take it back and teach his bit of American culture to his soldiers.
Above: Cookies are used to trap the melted, roasted marshmallows and pull them off of their roasting stick.*

From S'mores, Page 32

The only ingredients that remained true to the original was the readily available chocolate bar.

“We couldn’t find the stuff we would normally use at home,” said Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Mansell. “We thought the blueberry filling was kind of weird but it actually turned out to be pretty good.”

The 35th Division Soldiers shared their new concoction with their Japanese counter-parts, a new taste experience for them.

Capt. Yoshitomo Ota, Japanese Ground Self Defense Force, 4th Battalion Operations Officer, didn’t seem sure about what he was about to consume when Mansell handed him one of his modified s’mores.

“It’s good!” he said surprised as he bit into the creation. Then he smile, gave an enthusiastic thumbs up and asked for s’more.

Military children's day off

*Story by Spc. Stephanie Hodges and
Pfc. Robert Havens, 105th MPAD*

As spring provided a dreary overcast weekend, Kansas National Guard dependents participated in the annual Youth Symposium, held March 25-27, in The Oread Hotel at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kan. The Youth Symposium included both an 11-18 year-old youth group and a 6-10 year-old children's group, and provided enriching educational experiences, socializing, and most importantly a chance to show appreciation for their volunteer work. The youth group attended the *A Backpack Journalist* program while the children's group participated in a variety of activities that included a museum tour, rocket-building workshop, and a demonstration of team spirit.



Andrew Green, son of Air National Guard Lt. Col. Mark and Linda Green, poses for a photograph with Baby Jay, a Kansas University Mascot, during the Youth Symposium. The Youth Symposium consisted of events designed for Kansas National Guard youth to enrich educational experience, socialize and a chance to show appreciation for volunteer work.

Photo by Spc. Stephanie Hodges, 105th MPAD



Sorcha shows off an art book made by Killian Galindo, a Kansas National Guard youth, during the 2011 NGAKS convention. The youths made Kansas related art books after touring the Spencer Museum of Art during a Youth Symposium consisting of events designed for Kansas National Guard youth to enrich educational experience, socialize and a chance to show appreciation for volunteer work.

Photo by Pfc. Robert Havens, 105th MPAD

To start out their adventure on Saturday morning, the children's group toured the Spencer Museum of Art in Lawrence, Kan., where they were advised to keep a watchful eye during the tour for things they found stimulating and could help them in making their own Kansas books afterward. During the tour, the children's group saw various art works including: Richard Mawdsley's sculpture entitled, "Alpha-Omega: Water Tower #5" (1995-1999), Roger Shimomura's painting entitled, "Dinner Conversation with Nancy" (1983), and Harry Bertoia's sculpture entitled, "Untitled; Musical Sculpture" (1968).

After the art museum tour, the children's group activity consisted of creating Kansas-based books

See DAY OFF, Page 35

From DAY OFF, Page 34

from paper, feathers, beads and lace. The books created turned out to be as unique as the artists themselves; some works centered on the things they loved about Kansas, such as the sky, trees and people in Kansas, while others focused on a singular subject matter such as horses.

The Spencer Museum of Art and Kansas art experience then gave way to Kansas team spirit. The University of Kansas (KU) cheerleaders and the Jawhawk's team mascot, Baby Jay, officially greeted the children at The Oread Hotel, where they were given a special Rock-Chalk Jawhawk cheer. Each child also had an opportunity to get autographs from the cheerleaders and to be photographed with Baby Jay.

Following the KU rally, the children's group's next activity was rocket-building. Each child had the opportunity to create and decorate their own homemade paper rocket. Upon completion, each rocket was examined to ensure flight capability. Next, a designated launch area was established and rocket lift-off was initiated. Each rocket was tested and flight lengths measured, concluding a fun-filled day of activities.

Saturday evening, the Youth Ball commenced at The Oread to involve all Youth Symposium participants. Children swarmed the dance floor, enjoying the latest in music geared toward their tastes. Board games and snacks surrounded the area and provided a haven for rest and recuperation throughout the evening. Youth Symposium participants who were to receive an award were then shuttled over to the Joint Conferences awards banquet, at the Holiday Inn Conference Center, where prestigious youth and adult volunteer awards were being presented.

Honorees for Youth of the Year were Ty Shafer, son of Lt. Col. Jon and Lisa Shafer, who was awarded Army Youth of the Year; and Mia Mukes,

daughter of retired Air National Guard Senior Master Sgt. William and Carla Mukes, who was awarded Air Youth of the Year. This award is presented to individuals who display a strong commitment in support of the Kansas Family Programs. Some of Ty's contributions included being the president of the Teen

Council and his involvement with Kid's Camp over the last several years. Some of Mia's contributions included many hours of assistance with community events.

Sunday morning, the Kansas Family Programs awards breakfast provided the backdrop for further recognition of outstanding volunteers. The Pioneer Award was presented to volunteers contributing significantly to the Kansas National Guard and which required 200-499 service hours. The youth recipients of the Pioneer Award were Jahna Yuhn, daughter of Sgt. Maj. Darrin Yuhn and Carmen Yuhn; and Ty Shafer.

The Frontier Award was bestowed to volunteers contributing significantly to the Kansas National Guard and which required 50-199 service hours. Youth recipients of the Frontier Award included: Skylar Dickey, son of Sgt. Donald and Adrienne Dickey; Kassidy Seaba, daughter of Capt. Roney and Jamey Seaba; Sophia Olsen, daughter of Tech. Sgt. Jody and Dana Olsen; Allyson Henry, daughter of Lt. Col. Scott and Michele Henry; Sawyer Green, son of Air National Guard Lt. Col. Mark and Linda Green; Reed Wheeler, son of Lt. Col.

Howard Wheeler and Laura Wheeler; Mason Witzke, son of Sgt. 1st Class Phillip and Denise Witzke; and Preston Henry, son of Air National Guard Master Sgt. William and Patti Phillips.

"It has been my pleasure to work with some of the most amazing youth," stated Amanda Herlinger, State Youth Coordinator. "These youth have chosen to volunteer their time and energy to make an impact on the children of the Kansas National Guard. For their efforts, I am grateful."



Noah Williams, son of Lt. Col. Lon and Michelle Williams, watches over Ethan Booth, son of 1st Lt. Jason Boothe, as he fires his home made rocket during 2011 NGAKS Youth Symposium. The Youth Symposium consisted of events designed for Kansas National Guard youth to enrich educational experience, socialize and a chance to show appreciation for volunteer work.

Photo by Spc. Stephanie Hodges,
105th MPAD

End of an era

According to Military Times, the average age for most Army National Guard members is 31. But for one Kansas Army National Guard member that number seems young, considering he had already been serving the citizens and Soldiers of Kansas for nearly ten years around the time many of them were born. With 40 years, two months and three weeks of Army service – enough time to retire twice – Chief Warrant Officer Indulis “Indy” Dambro, a Legal Administrator, Joint Forces Headquarters Kansas – Land Component, is passing the baton on to the next generation of guardsmen and retiring from the job he knows and loves so well.

“This is a bittersweet ending,” Dambro said. “If I could have kept on going, I would have. But, at the same time it is time for the new herd to come in.”

For Dambro, it was the end of the line. He had already gone past the 60 year age limit with a waiver from the National Guard Bureau. When he applied for a second waiver, it wasn’t meant to be. Now, at the age of 61, retirement was no longer an option – it was mandatory.

Dambro began his long career in December 1970 – the Vietnam War was still being fought and the draft was still in effect. His draft number was coming up and he knew he would be called.

“I knew I was going to get called up. I knew I was going somewhere,” Dambro recalled. “I took the physical and everything was good. I actually passed

CW4 Indulis Dambro Retires

By Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke, 105th MPAD

the physical and so I was going to go somewhere. I was fine with it. My brother was a Marine, an MP (military policeman) in Vietnam – (in) Da Nang.”

Just before Dambro was about to ship off with the active duty Army, Greg Gilroy, with the Kansas National Guard in Ottawa, Kan., called and asked him if he would like to join the guard with Headquarters Headquarters Battalion, 127th Field Artillery. Dambro weighed his options and three days before he would have shipped off on the active duty side, he enlisted in the Kansas Army National Guard.



Warrant Officer 4 Indulis Dambro receives congratulations from Brig. Gen. Deborah Rose, Director of the Joint Staff, upon his receipt to the Air Force Commendation Medal and the occasion on his retirement.

“It was an excellent choice and I have never regretted it,” said Dambro.

After spending multiple years with 127th FA, a chance change in annual training periods would also change the course of his career. While attending a training session, he was assigned to work with the Judge Advocate General’s section. His supervisor liked his work and asked if he would like to join the section. Therefore, in 1980 he transferred to Company A, 169th Support Battalion, and began his long career in

the legal field.

While he served the majority of his adult years with the Army National Guard, Dambro owes his career to his step-father’s service with the U.S. military after World War II. Dambro, a naturalized citizen since 1960, was born in a displaced persons camp in Oldenburg, Germany. His step-father, who spent time in Dachau, Germany, because he was Latvian and wouldn’t cooperate with the German regime at

See ERA, Page 37



Warrant Officer Indulis Dambro stands at attention after the presentation of the Legion of Merit Medal, presented for his 40 years of service.

From ERA, Page 36

the time, could speak bits of several languages allowing him to serve as an escort at the Nuremburg Trials as a company guard and an escort from the jailhouse to the courthouse. Consequently, the family came to the United States in 1951 and ended up in Massachusetts for a short time, then Nebraska and finally Kansas. Through the forty years of service, Dambro credits his family with his success.

"There's no question in my mind that nothing could have worked without my family," he said. "From day one, Jo Ellen and both kids – Ryan and Megan – have given up a lot. I missed birthdays and graduations like every guardsman. But, my wife has never once resisted or said 'why don't you get out' or 'why don't you quit doing this'. She has never done that. She has always been supportive of me. She's always sup-

ported the military, and she has always supported the Guard."

Dambro took the occasion of his retirement on March 5, to celebrate the 90th birthday of his father-in-law, a World War II veteran.

"Point of the matter is, he is the oldest Soldier here," he said. "It all fits together. That's my whole point – the family has always been supportive."

It is evident that he loved the Guard. When asked if he would do it again, the answer was an emphatic "yes."

"I don't know what I will do on the first weekend of the month. I have been getting in the Guard mode for so long. Maybe I will dress up and come to the museum and be a living display," he joked.

For his forty years of service, Dambro was awarded the Legion of Merit and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

"To receive these two commendations is just exceptional, and I am very honored and proud to have received them," he said.

**Join us and celebrate the life of Bernie Deghand
with a great day of golf, food and fun.**

Tourney will be held at: Lake Shawnee Golf Course

Saturday, May 7, 2011

Cookout and registration is 11:00 am-12:30 pm. We tee it up with a shotgun start at 12:30 pm. After golf there will be awards and a Putt Contest where someone will win \$500.

TO REGISTER:

Go to

www.bernietourney.com

and click on the registration tab.

Or send email to—

beam@bernietourney.com

**Or send a check to – Jared Beam,
5721 NW Humphrey Rd Topeka
(785) 215-5390**

\$60 per player or \$240 per team
Includes cookout and golf



Kansas National Guard Joint Conference Golf Tournament

Story and Photos by Sgt. Beverly Fortner, 105th MPAD

In conjunction with the 2011 Kansas National Guard Conferences held March 25-27, in Lawrence, Kan., the annual golf tournament took place Friday, March 25, at the Alvamar Public Golf Course in Lawrence, Kan.

The tournament was coordinated by Sgt. 1st Class Kurt Wassenberg, President of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Kansas; civilian employee Max Miller, Command Sgt. Maj. James Crosby, and Sgt. Jeremy Hitt, all with Joint Staff Operations, Kansas Adjutant Generals Department, Kansas National Guard.

With all but one as a four-person team, a total of 63 players were off and running to their respective starting positions early Friday morning, and though the weather gave a few glimpses of sunshine at the beginning of the tournament, cool temperatures and an overcast sky were the norm for the day. This did not deter the tournament players who focused instead on Alvamar's 18-hole greens, as retired Col. Henry Martin, 35th Infantry Division Personnel, remarked, "It's cold out, and the course is playing slow, but the golf course is green and in good shape."

Golf carts could be seen navigating up and down the various courses, with each team thoroughly enjoying the social side of the function as well. Though the tees and fairways have not yet been released from winter's grasp, the greens have been well tended to, and with pristine ponds scattered throughout the course, Alvamar was a perfect place to just relax and be with friends. Martin stated "it's fun to see friends from different states out here" but, he did not neglect to interject, "we're going to beat Brad Mettner's team today."



Retired Col. Mark Leonard, takes a swing toward the 18th-hole greens during a golf tournament March 25. The golf tournament was held at the Alvamar Golf and Country Club, Lawrence, Kan., as part of the 2011 Kansas National Guard Conferences.

The 18-hole course took the morning and into lunchtime to complete, with everyone coming back to the pro-shop with a big smile and lots of laughs to remember the day by. The awards at the end of the event were just a little more topping on the cake!

Categories and Winners

B-Flight 1st Place – 2 under PAR

TEAM MEMBERS:

Mark Leonard, Col. Ret., Skydex Technologies, Inc. and corporate sponsor of NGAKS

Lisa Leonard, Col. Ret., Skydex Technologies, Inc. and corporate sponsor of NGAKS

Greg Gilroy, Master Sgt. Ret., and Executive Director of the EANGKS

Max Miller, civilian, Joint Staff Operations, Kansas Adjutant Generals Department, Kansas National Guard, and Treasurer of the EANGKS

B-Flight 2nd Place Team – 1 under PAR

TEAM MEMBERS:

Maj. Matt Twombly, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, Kansas Army National Guard

Lt. Col. Chris Burr, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, Kansas Army National Guard

Maj. Larry Leupold, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, Kansas Army National Guard

Capt. Phil Morris, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, Kansas Army National Guard

Longest Drive

CW2 Bryant Larimore, Missouri Army National Guard, and with Northrop Grumman Corporation

Longest Putt

Michael Cochran, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation, Kansas Army National Guard

Closest to Pin

CW2 Bryant Larimore, Missouri Army National Guard, and with Northrop Grumman Corporation



Participants of the annual golf tournament gather for a group photo afterward at the Alvamar Golf and Country Club, Lawrence, Kan., on March 25. The event was held in conjunction with the 2011 Kansas National Guard Conferences.



The "Swamp" is even complete with its own still, which was an integral part of the original television shows.

Photos by PFC Robert Havens

From MASH page 28

after going through all the pictures on the website he could not believe it and kept thinking, "My God, that looks real!"

Someone was selling the full-scale model of "The Swamp" on eBay and in fact it was Dilday that had it for sale. David had, over a ten-year period, built the full-scale "Swamp" set as an almost exact replica of the original set. Bill states that he and David must both be "OCD" (obsessive-compulsive disorder) because he says the set became "a work in progress for about twelve years and [with] quite a large amount of money" going into it.

If you are wondering why anyone would buy a full-scale model of MASH's "Swamp" set then you aren't alone. Bill had thought the same thing when he saw that it for the first time, but he kept thinking to himself "Geez, I really would like to have something like that." It was his good friend Nancy Pate, also of Sunrise Beach, Mo., that eventually talked him into getting it even though her first obvious question was, "Where are you going to put it?"

And then recently, in 2010, Bill Smith started thinking about possibly donating his unique MASH swamp set to a museum, he just didn't quite know when or how this might happen. It wasn't until Bill brought "The Swamp" to Topeka to put on display in conjunction with the Military Preservation Association's convention last July when things started to fall into place.

Throw in the interesting fact that Topeka is Bill Smith's hometown, and after a friend put Bill in touch

with Ed Gerhardt out at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard, and you can see what happened. Once Bill saw how excited all the visitors were to see "The Swamp" display, he knew right away he had found "a place where it would be enjoyed, and that it now had a home."

Go see this exhibit for yourself. Its guaranteed to include a little bit of nostalgia that directly makes references toward the role of the military during the 1950s in Korea, and also to the era of the 1970s when we as a nation were desperately struggling with the impacts of going off to war in distant lands. We were just pulling ourselves out of Vietnam and it was while in the midst of this particular time period that the MASH series began to successfully present a running commentary on the futility of war, a predicament where nations today still find themselves struggling to comprehend.

You definitely need to visit the Museum so you can do a double take of "The Swamp." It is on display and open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard, located at 6700 SW Topeka Blvd. in Topeka, Kan. – and admission is free!



No detail was overlooked when setting up the display, as evidenced by the Korean War era Stars and Stripes newspaper declaring "Truman Asks for Full War Powers"

Photo by PFC Robert Havens, 105th MPAD

Video earns first place award in public affairs competition

Story by Sgt. Jessica Rohr, 105th MPAD

The 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (MPAD), Kansas National Guard, won a first place award in the 2010 Keith L. Ware Public Affairs competition in the category of 'Television Information Program' for the '2020 Kansas Guard Hall of Fame, Paul Idol' video.

The project was a collaborative effort between the 105th MPAD and the directorate of Command, control, Communications and Computers visual information team.

The Paul Idol Hall of Fame video was judged against hundreds of outstanding broadcasts received by the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs from Army units in Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Korea, Haiti and Hawaii, as well as the continental United States. The winning entries distinguish themselves for technical excellence, creativity and effectiveness.

In order to participate at the Army-wide level in the competition, contestants first had to compete at the Army National Guard Bureau, where they also placed first in the same category. Hall of Fame videos competed in previous years and placed at the National Guard level, but never continued on to the Army-wide competition.

"Winning the award for an Army unit is like winning the Academy Award for best film," said 105th

Right photo—Staff Sgt. Mark Hanson on one of his many filming assignments. Hanson was the top talent on the current unit's win, according to unit commander, Maj. Mike Wallace.



MPAD commander, Maj. Mike Wallace. "This is really tough to do and I am proud of the several people that worked on this project."

"But," Wallace continued, "the real talent of the project was Staff Sgt. Mark Han-

son. He is one of the most knowledgeable professionals that is in the career of public affairs and information. I feel he has forgotten more than most professionals will ever know."

The unit will receive plaques and certificates. First place finishers also compete against other services for the Department of Defense level, Thomas Jefferson awards in early April.

Prince wins UPAR of the Year

On Saturday, April 2, 2011 in Salina, Kansas, Kansas Army National Guard Soldier, Spc. Celia J. Prince won the 2010 Billie E. Fuqua Unit Public Affairs Representative (UPAR) of the Year.

Prince deployed with the 226th Engineer Company to Afghanistan from December 2009 to December 2010 and she had numerous articles published throughout the year in the Kansas Sentinel and Plains Guardian.

Sharon Watson, the director of the Adjutant General's Department Public Affairs Office, said that Prince was selected for this honor because of her outstanding performance during which she demonstrated professionalism and attention to detail that was unsurpassed.

"UPAR's are very important for the Kansas National Guard to get the Soldier, Airman, organizational and command information out to the public," said Watson.

"As a UPAR, Prince consistently presented the story of the Kansas National Guard in an informative and positive manner."

Prince was not available to accept her award personally, having moved out of state, but the award is being sent to her with an Army Achievement Medal for her performance during her duties as UPAR.



Spc. Celia Prince